

1. Resolution providing for the publication of and setting a date to consider a proposed ordinance amending Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids entitled "Voting Precincts" to update the boundaries of certain precincts



Item Number: 5

# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AGENDA ACTION REQUEST

**DATE:** April 15, 2025

**TO:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**COMMITTEE:** Committee of the Whole

**LIAISON:** Mark Washington, City Manager

**FROM:** Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk  
City Clerk's Office

**SUBJECT:** **Resolution providing for the publication of and setting a date to consider a proposed ordinance amending Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids entitled "Voting Precincts" to update the boundaries of certain precincts**

Michigan voters approved Proposal 3 of 2018 and Proposal 2 of 2022 that made monumental changes to the Michigan Constitution enshrining many voting rights including the right for all voters to apply for an absentee ballot without a reason and 9 days of early voting before a federal or statewide election. These two fundamental updates to the way voters engage in the election system make it necessary to review the precinct boundaries and polling locations. Michigan state law states that the city Election Commission has the authority to change precinct boundaries, and the City Commission has the authority to approve the polling location in said precincts. The Michigan Legislature passed an amendment to the minimum number of voters per precinct from 2,999 to 4,999.

Many cities and townships reduced the number of precincts prior to the 2024 election season, but the Clerk's Office waited until data was available following the 2024 Presidential Election. The table below shows the turnout and method of voting in November 2024. The average turnout in the Election Day precinct was 571 voters. This is substantially less than 2016, which was 901 voters per precinct. With the increase of voters choosing absentee and early voting, it is prudent to reduce the number of precincts. The cost savings of reducing precincts can be shifted to the increased costs to facilitate Absentee and Early voting.

| Registered | Voted  | %      | Precinct | Absentee | Early  |
|------------|--------|--------|----------|----------|--------|
| 152,226    | 97,677 | 64.17% | 42,222   | 34,909   | 20,546 |

***November 2024 Turnout***

The Election Commission and City Clerk's Office requests that the City Commission approve the attached Polling Locations for each precinct.

After adoption, the City Clerk's office will update all Precinct Maps and the Michigan Qualified Voter File Street Index. The Clerk's office will also mail new Voter Identification Cards to all affected voters.

Attached to this memo are new Precinct Maps, a precinct directory of Polling Locations, a comparison chart of old and new precincts, and the Election Commission Meeting Minutes.

The attached resolution would authorize publication of a proposed ordinance to amend the Voting Precinct section of the Code of Ordinances. The resolution would also schedule the date of April 29, 2025, for consideration of and vote on the proposed ordinance amendment.

Please place this item on the next available Committee of the Whole agenda. Thank you.

Your COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE recommends the adoption of the following resolution approving Election Day polling locations.

WHEREAS:

1. Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.657, establishes that the Election Commission has the duty to establish the boundaries of election precincts; and
2. Michigan Election Law, MCL 168.662, establishes that the City Commission has the duty to designate polling places; and
3. Michigan Election Law, MCL 169.661, establishes that the number of registered voters may not exceed 4,999 registered voters; and
4. The Election Commission met February 21, 2025, to approve the revision of the boundaries of certain precincts; therefore

RESOLVED:

1. The attached ordinance amending Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids shall be published as part of the proceedings; and
2. The proposed ordinance shall be considered for adoption on April 29, 2025; and
3. In accordance with Title V, Section 10(b) of the Grand Rapids City Charter, the attached ordinance shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the City of Grand Rapids.

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH ELECTION PRECINCTS  
PURSUANT TO TITLE I, SECTION 5(a) OF THE CITY CHARTER,  
BY AMENDING SECTION 1.46 OF CHAPTER 3 OF TITLE I OF  
THE CODE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS.**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS DO ORDAIN:**

Section 1. That Section 1.46 of Chapter 3 of Title I of the Code of the City of Grand Rapids be amended to read as follows:

“Section 1.41. Voting Precincts.

That pursuant to Title I, Section 5(a) of the Charter of the City of Grand Rapids, the City Commission hereby establishes fifty-nine (59) election precincts with the boundaries shown on the Election Precinct Map filed with the City Clerk.”

Section 2. The City Clerk shall give all notices required by law of the establishment of such precinct boundaries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

1. The City Commission approves the list of polling locations as provided by the City Clerk's Office.

  
CORRECT IN FORM  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW



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# CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS PRECINCT DIRECTORY

## PROPOSED CHANGES

### ALL PRECINCTS ARE ACCESSIBLE

#### FIRST WARD – 20 PCTS

1. **Kent County Recycling & Education Center**  
977 Wealthy SW
2. **Sibley Elementary School**  
947 Sibley NW
3. **Brookside Elementary School**  
2505 Madison SE
4. **Garfield Park Gym**  
2111 Madison SE
5. **Marsh Ridge Senior Community**  
470 Marsh Ridge NW  
(Community Center)
6. **LaGrave Christian Reformed Church**  
107 LaGrave SE  
(West entrance from parking lot)
7. **First Evangelical Covenant Church**  
1933 Tremont NW
8. **Faith Community Church of West MI**  
2600 – 7<sup>th</sup> St NW
9. **St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
420 – 2<sup>nd</sup> St NW (Activities Center)
10. **Crossroads Bible Church**  
800 Scribner NW
11. **Harrison Park Elementary School**  
1440 Davis Ave. NW
12. **Cesar E Chavez Elementary School**  
1205 Cesar E Chavez Ave. SW
13. **Burton Elementary School**  
2133 Buchanan SW
14. **Seventh Reformed Church**  
950 Leonard NW
15. **New Hope Baptist Church**  
130 Delaware SW
16. **Sts. Peter & Paul School**  
1430 Quarry NW (Webster St. entrance)
17. **St. Paul's Anglican Catholic Church**  
2560 Lake Michigan Dr. NW
18. **Westview Christian Reformed Church**  
2929 Leonard NW
19. **Downtown Christian Church**  
1711 Walker NW
20. **Buchanan Elementary School**  
1775 Buchanan SW

#### SECOND WARD – 20 PCTS

21. **Congress Elementary School**  
940 Baldwin SE
22. **Kent Hills Elementary School**  
1445 Emerald NE
23. **St. Isidore Parish Center**  
625 Spring NE
24. **4<sup>th</sup> Reformed Church**  
1226 Union NE (Back entrance)
25. **Encounter Church**  
1736 Lyon NE
26. **Palmer Elementary School**  
309 Palmer NE
27. **Emerald Flats Gym**  
750 Eastern NE
28. **Leonard Terrace Apartments**  
1315 Leonard NE
29. **Northlawn United Methodist Church**  
1157 Northlawn NE
30. **Aberdeen Elementary School**  
928 Aberdeen NE
31. **Coit Arts Academy**  
617 Coit NE (Livingston Ave. ent.)
32. **Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
47 Jefferson SE (south entrance)
33. **Trinity Methodist Church**  
1100 Lake Dr SE
34. **North Park School**  
3375 Cheney NE
35. **Vista Springs – Riverside Gardens**  
2420 Coit NE
36. **Faith Lutheran Church**  
2740 Fuller NE
37. **Beckwith Hills Christian Reformed Church**  
2100 Chelsea NE (Fellowship Room)
38. **Yankee Clipper Library**  
2025 Leonard NE (lower level)
39. **Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church**  
330 Lakeside Dr NE
40. **Ransom Tower Apartments**  
50 Ransom NE (Bardlay Ave. ent.)

#### THIRD WARD – 19 PCTS

41. **Grand Rapids International Fellowship**  
3765 Kalamazoo SE
42. **Woodlawn CRC Ministry Center**  
3190 Burton SE
43. **Our Savior Lutheran Church**  
2900 Burton SE
44. **Shawnee Park Christian Reformed Church**  
2255 Tecumseh Dr SE
45. **Brookside Christian Reformed Church**  
3600 Kalamazoo SE
46. **Plymouth Congregational Church**  
4010 Kalamazoo SE
47. **Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Academy**  
645 Logan SE
48. **Calvin Christian Reformed Church**  
700 Ethel SE
49. **Dickinson Elementary School**  
448 Dickinson SE
50. **CrossWay Community Church**  
3950 Burton SE
51. **Ken-O-Sha Elementary School**  
1353 Van Auken SE
52. **First Christian Reformed Church**  
651 Martin Luther King Jr SE
53. **Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church**  
961 Temple SE (Butler Ave. entrance)
54. **East Congregational United Church of Christ**  
1005 Giddings SE (basement)
55. **Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church**  
1239 Fuller SE
56. **Seymour Christian Reformed Church**  
840 Alger SE (south entrance)
57. **HUB 07**  
1445 Kalamazoo SE
58. **Eastern Avenue Christian Reformed Church**  
514 Eastern SE (Logan St. entrance)
59. **Plymouth Heights Christian Ref. Church**  
1800 Plymouth SE



CITY OF  
GRAND  
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CITY OF  
GRAND  
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Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk

OLD/NEW PRECINCT NUMBERS FROM REAPPORTIONMENT 2025

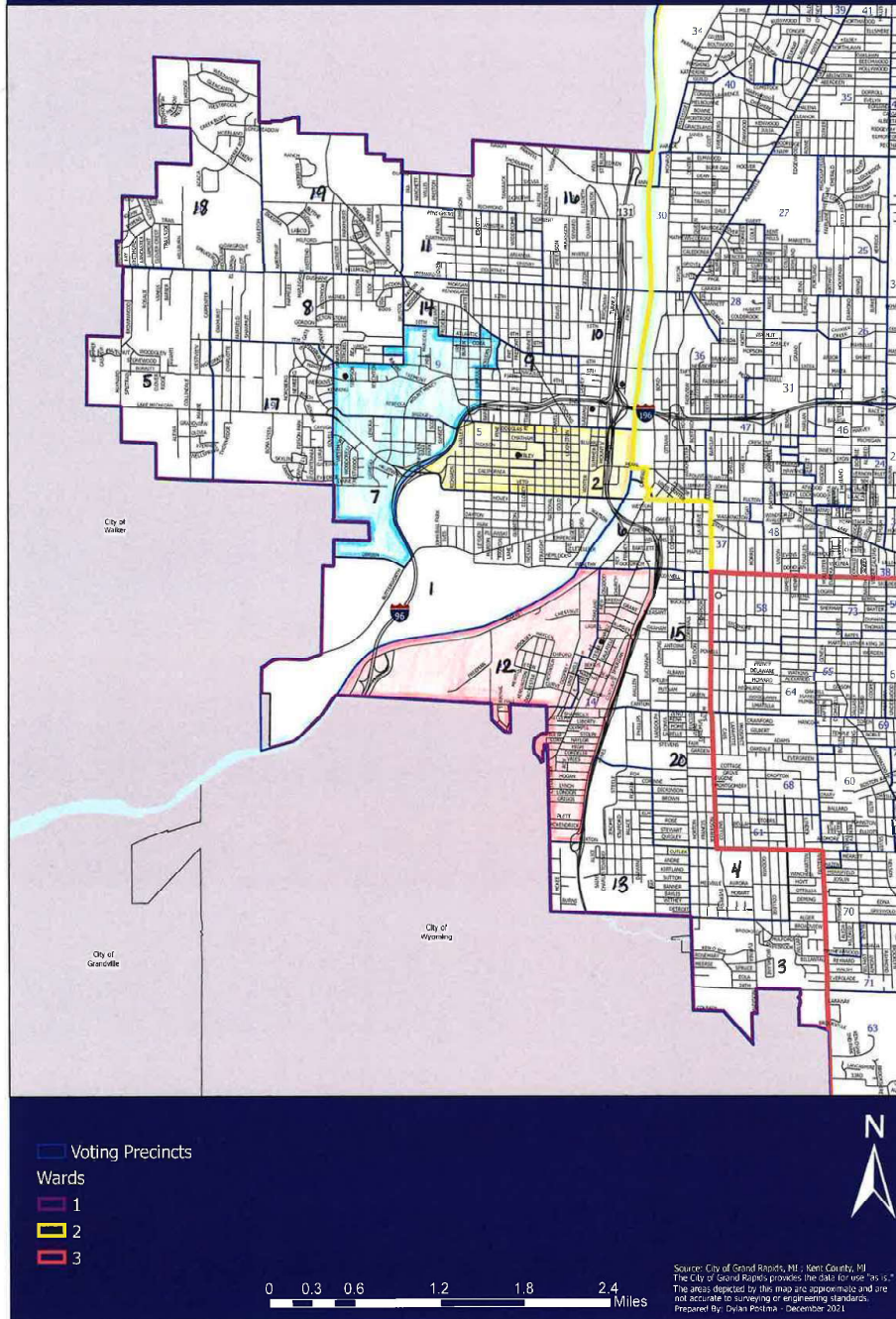
| WARD ONE        |         |                  | WARD TWO        |         |                                   | WARD THREE      |         |                                   |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Old Pct         | New Pct |                  | Old Pct         | New Pct |                                   | Old Pct         | New Pct |                                   |
| 1-1             | 1-1     |                  | 2-24            | 2-21    |                                   | 3-49            | 3-41    |                                   |
| 1-2             | 1-2     |                  | 2-25            | 2-22    |                                   | <del>3-50</del> |         | Merged with 3-59                  |
| 1-3             | 1-3     |                  | 2-26            | 2-23    |                                   | 3-51            | 3-42    |                                   |
| 1-4             | 1-4     |                  | 2-27            | 2-24    | Merged with 2-28                  | 3-52            | 3-43    |                                   |
| <del>1-5</del>  |         | Merged with 1-2  | <del>2-28</del> |         | Split and Merged with 2-27 & 2-31 | 3-53            | 3-44    |                                   |
| 1-6             | 1-5     |                  | 2-29            | 2-25    |                                   | 3-54            | 3-45    |                                   |
| <del>1-7</del>  |         | Merged with 1-9  | 2-30            | 2-26    |                                   | 3-55            | 3-46    | Split and Merged with 3-54 & 3-56 |
| 1-8             | 1-6     |                  | 2-31            | 2-27    | Merged with 2-28                  | <del>3-56</del> |         | Merged with 3-55                  |
| 1-9             | 1-7     |                  | <del>2-32</del> |         | Merged with 2-24                  | <del>3-57</del> |         | Merged with 3-74                  |
| 1-10            | 1-8     |                  | 2-33            | 2-28    |                                   | 3-58            | 3-47    |                                   |
| 1-11            | 1-9     |                  | 2-34            | 2-29    |                                   | 3-59            | 3-48    |                                   |
| 1-12            | 1-10    |                  | 2-35            | 2-30    |                                   | <del>3-60</del> |         | Merged with 3-69                  |
| 1-13            | 1-11    |                  | 2-36            | 2-31    |                                   | 3-61            | 3-49    |                                   |
| 1-14            | 1-12    |                  | 2-37            | 2-32    |                                   | 3-62            | 3-50    |                                   |
| 1-15            | 1-13    |                  | 2-38            | 2-33    |                                   | 3-63            | 3-51    |                                   |
| 1-16            | 1-14    |                  | 2-39            | 2-34    |                                   | 3-64            | 3-52    |                                   |
| 1-17            | 1-15    |                  | 2-40            | 2-35    |                                   | 3-65            | 3-53    |                                   |
| 1-18            | 1-16    |                  | 2-41            | 2-36    |                                   | 3-66            | 3-54    |                                   |
| 1-19            | 1-17    |                  | <del>2-42</del> |         | Merged with 2-41                  | <del>3-67</del> |         | Merged with 3-52                  |
| 1-20            | 1-18    |                  | 2-43            | 2-37    |                                   | <del>3-68</del> |         | Split and Merged with 3-61 & 3-64 |
| <del>1-21</del> |         | Merged with 1-14 | 2-44            | 2-38    |                                   | 3-69            | 3-55    | Split and Merged with 3-60 & 3-72 |
| 1-22            | 1-19    |                  | 2-45            | 2-39    |                                   | 3-70            | 3-56    |                                   |
| 1-23            | 1-20    |                  | 2-46            |         | Merged with 2-26                  | <del>3-71</del> |         | Merged with 3-63                  |
|                 |         |                  | 2-47            | 2-40    |                                   | 3-72            | 3-57    |                                   |
|                 |         |                  | <del>2-48</del> |         | Merged with 2-37                  | 3-73            | 3-58    |                                   |
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OLD/NEW PRECINCT NUMBERS FROM REAPPORTIONMENT 2025

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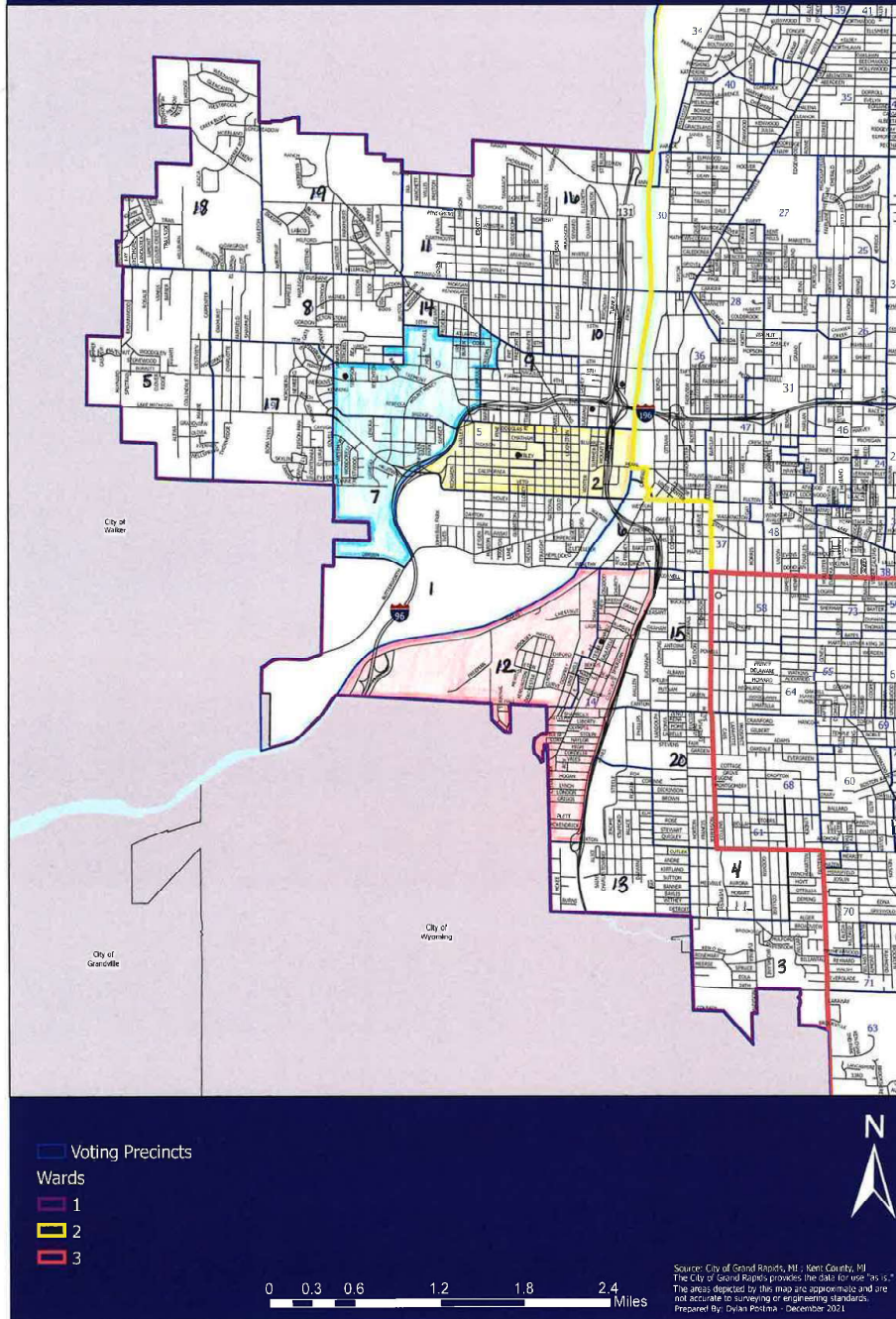


## City of Grand Rapids Voting Precincts by Ward



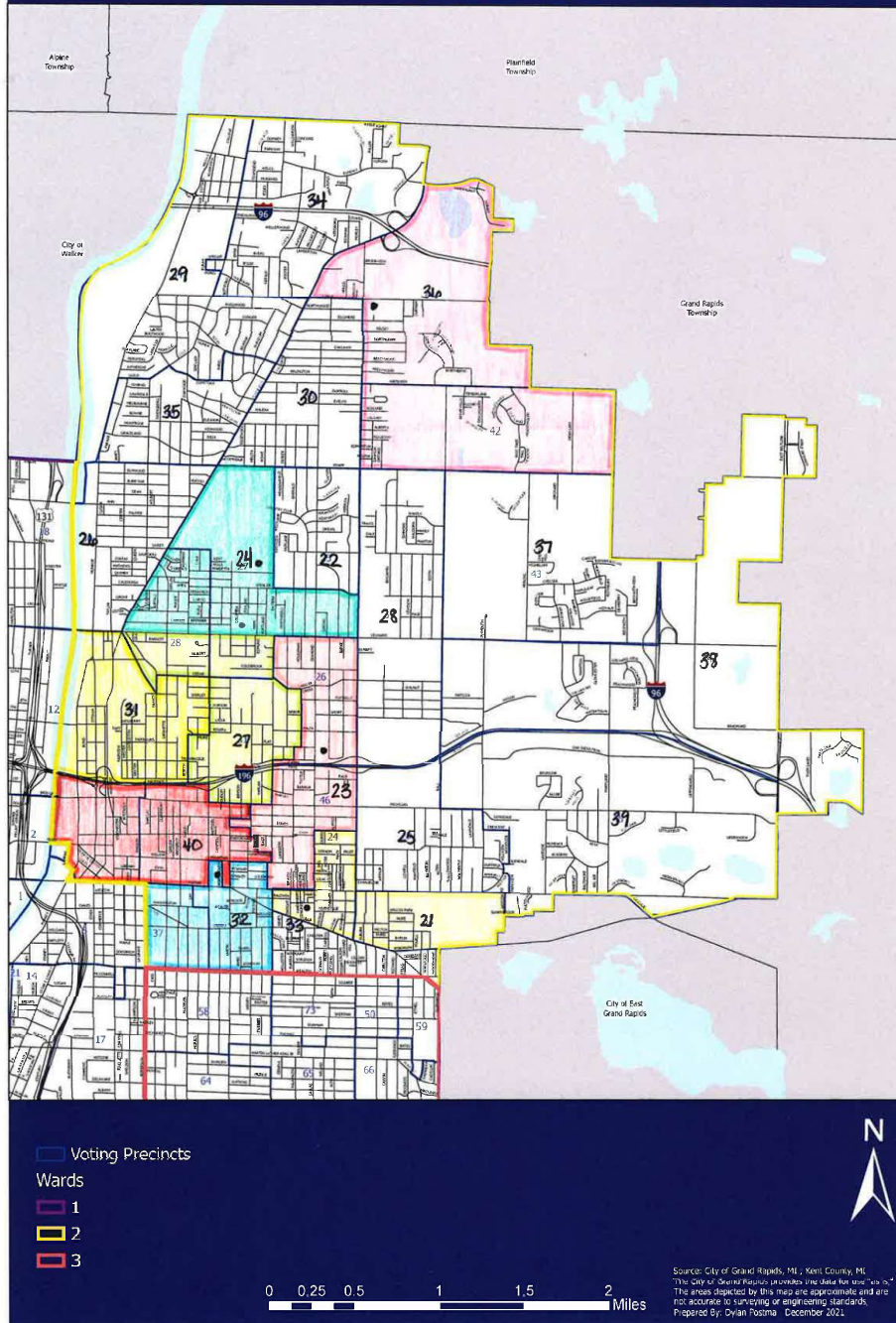


## City of Grand Rapids Voting Precincts by Ward



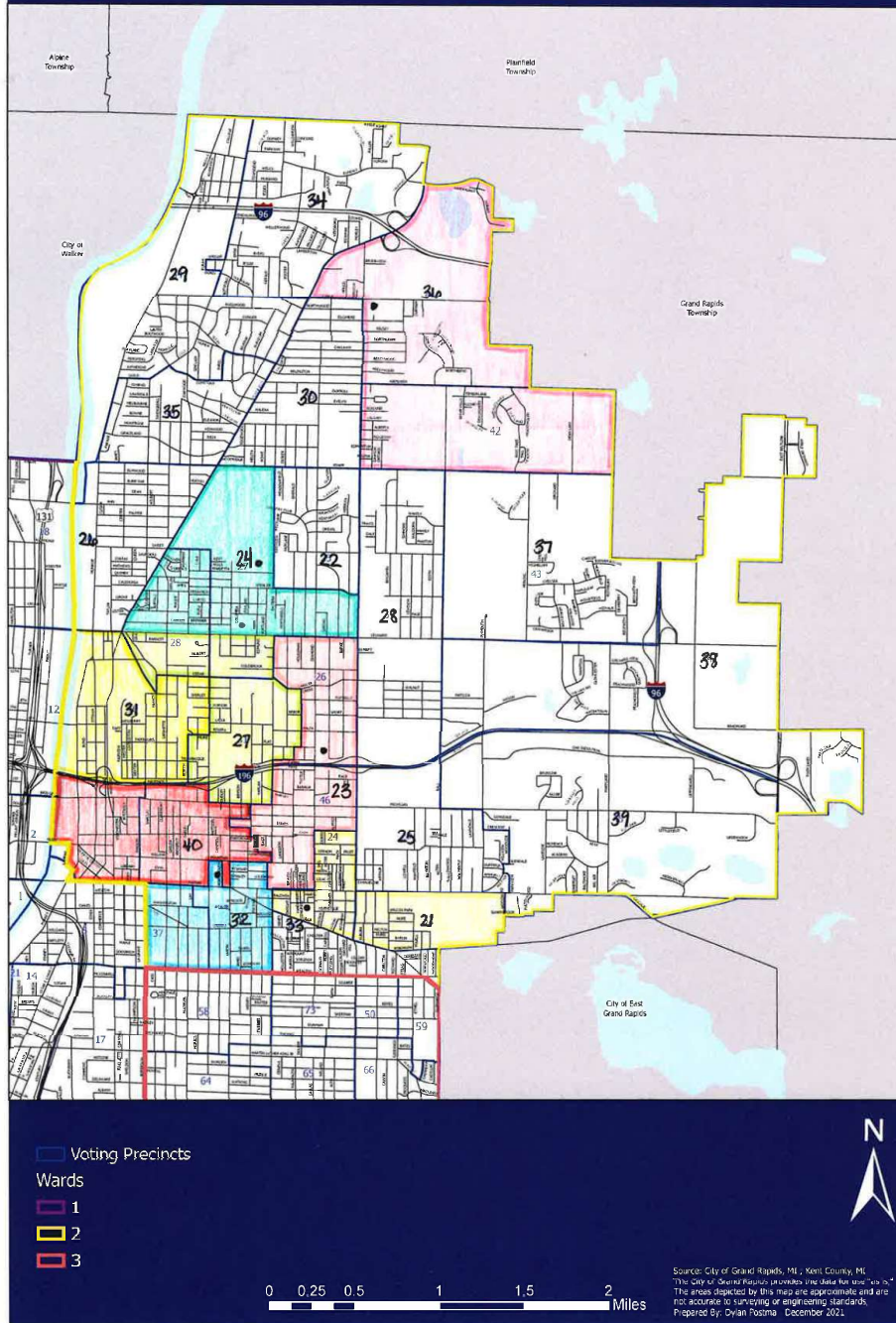


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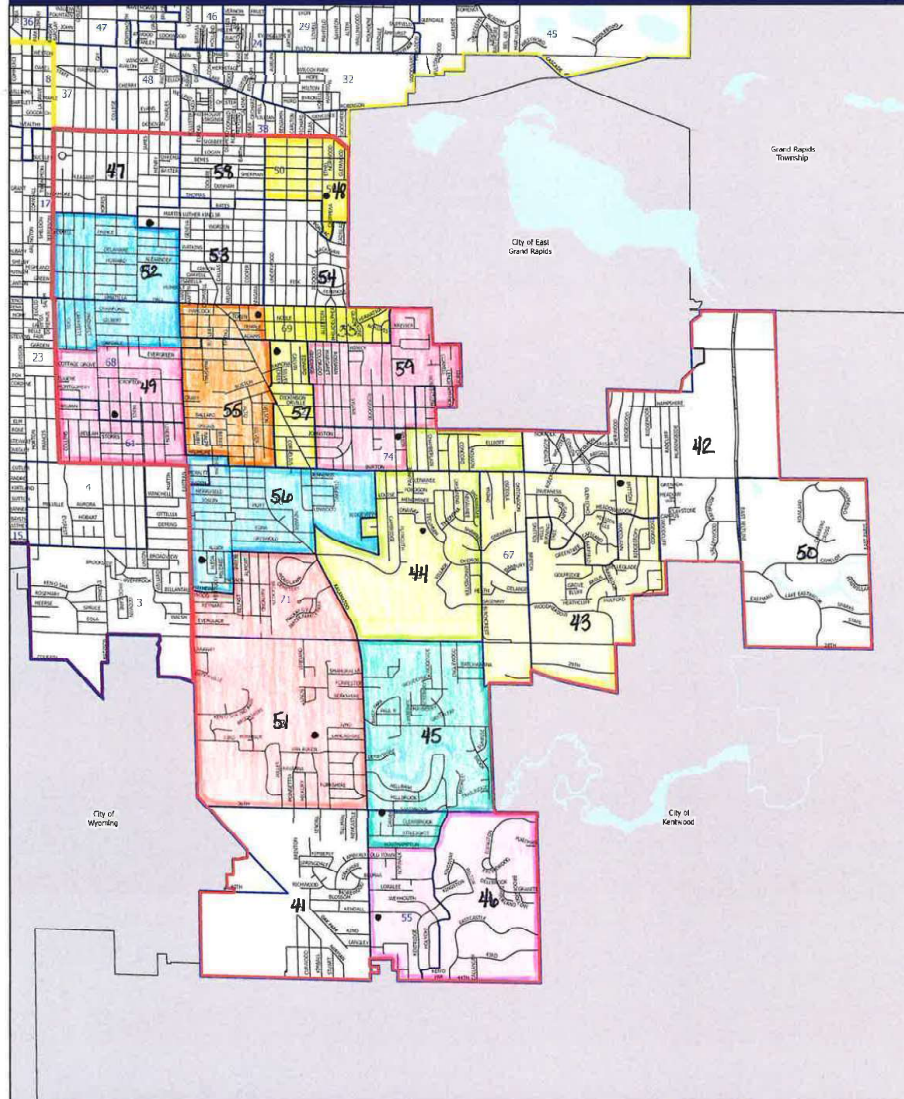


# City of Grand Rapids Voting Precincts by Ward





## City of Grand Rapids Voting Precincts by Ward



Voting Precincts

Wards

1

2

3

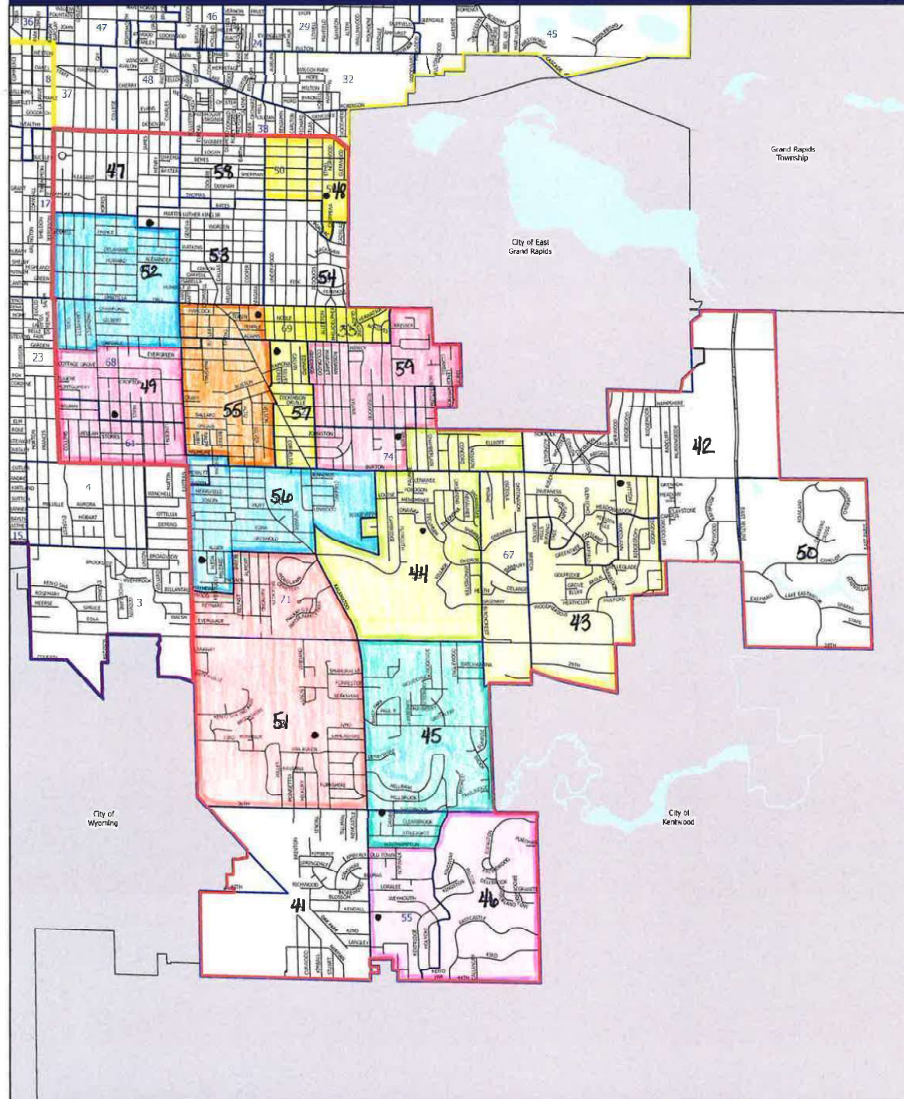
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



Source: City of Grand Rapids, MI - Kent County, MI  
The City of Grand Rapids provides the data for use "as is."  
The areas depicted by this map are approximate and are  
not accurate to surveying or engineering standards.  
Prepared By: Dylan Pichora - December 2021



## City of Grand Rapids Voting Precincts by Ward



Voting Precincts

Wards

1

2

3

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles



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not accurate to surveying or engineering standards.  
Prepared By: Dylan Pichora - December 2021

**ELECTION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2025, at 8:30 am  
Room 479, City Hall, 300 Monroe NW**

**Meeting called to order: 8:30 am**

**Present:** Commissioners Clerk Joel Hondorp, Assessor Paula Grivins-Jastifer, City Attorney Anita Hitchcock

- 1. Presiding:** Commissioner Hondorp
- 2. Roll Call:** Commissioners Hondorp, Grivins-Jastifer, Hitchcock
- 3. Public Comments on items on the Agenda:**

None

**4. Election Commission Resolution:**

- 1) Resolution to approve the consolidation for certain precincts for the May 6, 2025, Special Election**
- 2) Resolution to appoint Election Inspectors and Receiving Board Members for the May 6, 2025, Special Election**
- 3) Resolution to combine, redraw and renumber precincts**
- 4) Resolution recommending the City Commission adopt precinct boundaries, numbering and polling locations**

Comm. Hondorp presented each resolution and provided comments regarding the Michigan Election Law provisions regarding the responsibilities of a local Board of Election Commissioners to appoint Election Inspectors and to designate Receiving Board Team and Absentee Voting Pre-Processing and Processing Board Team members in accordance with the Michigan Election Law.

Election Comm. Grivins-Jastifer, supported by Election Comm. Hitchcock, moved to approve:

1. Resolution to approve the consolidation for certain precincts for the May 6, 2025, Special Election  
Vote: 3- Yea                      0- Nay                      Passed
2. Resolution to appoint Election Inspectors and Receiving Board Members for the May 6, 2025, Special Election  
Vote: 3- Yea                      0- Nay                      Passed
3. Resolution to combine, redraw and renumber precincts  
Vote: 3- Yea                      0- Nay                      Passed
4. Resolution recommending the City Commission adopt precinct boundaries, numbering and polling locations  
Vote: 3- Yea                      0- Nay                      Passed

**5. Public Comments:**

None

**6. Comments by Commissioners:**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Minutes prepared by Joel H. Hondorp

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**5. Public Comments:**

None

**6. Comments by Commissioners:**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Minutes prepared by Joel H. Hondorp

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ELECTION COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE CITY COMMISSION ADOPT “VOTING PRECINCTS”  
ORDINANCE AND APPROVE POLLING LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE ELECTIONS**

Election Commissioner Grivins-Jastifer, supported by Election Commissioner Hitchcock, moved to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Act 116 of 1954, as amended, being MCL 168.657, authorizes a municipal Election Commission to attach a portion of any precinct to an adjoining precinct, or may rearrange the city, ward, or township into election precincts as the election commission or other officials charged with the performance of that duty by the charter of any city may consider necessary and convenient for conducting primaries or elections in the city, ward, or township in the same manner and under the same restrictions as provided in section 661; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Election Law, the Election Commission of the City of Grand Rapids must make precinct boundary changes no later than 210 days prior to the August primary in an even year except following the second year after the census, which is no later than 120 days; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids City Charter Title 1, Section 5(a) states that The City Commission shall by ordinance from time to time establish convenient election precincts in each ward.

WHEREAS, since the adoption of Proposal 3 in 2018 and Proposal 2 of 2022, the number of voters voting Early and by Absentee Ballot has increased creating a decrease of voters voting in the Precinct on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, certain polling locations are changed/removed due to accessibility issues, availability or reduction of multi-precinct polling locations;

RESOLVED that the Election Commission recommends that the City Commission approves the consecutive numbering of precincts 1 - 59 and polling locations for said precincts effective May 7, 2025.

*Adopted by the City of Grand Rapids Election Commission on February 21, 2025.*

| Yeas     |                  | Nays              |
|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| <u>X</u> | Hondorp          | <u>          </u> |
| <u>X</u> | Hitchcock        | <u>          </u> |
| <u>X</u> | Grivins-Jastifer | <u>          </u> |

|       |          |          |                   |
|-------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| Yeas: | <u>3</u> | Adopted: | <u>X</u>          |
| Nays: | <u>0</u> | Failed:  | <u>          </u> |

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true transcript of the action of the Election Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in public session held February 21, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joel H. Hondorp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

---

Joel H. Hondorp, City Clerk

**CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS ELECTION COMMISSION**

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| <u>X</u> | Hitchcock        | <u>          </u> |
| <u>X</u> | Grivins-Jastifer | <u>          </u> |

|       |          |          |                   |
|-------|----------|----------|-------------------|
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